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Ministry of Home Affairs.

H.M.'s Personal Section.

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Subject

Correspondence with D.G.A.T.B. regarding a suitable site for the proposed Radio Station at Ahmedabad.

Previous References.

Later References.

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**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ALL INDIA RADIO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

TELEGRAMS COMBROCAST
TELEPHONE 7121

Broadcasting House
Parliament Street
NEW DELHI

No. DG-15/48

January 15, 1948

My dear Shankar,

Many thanks for your letter of 14th January. The possibilities in Ahmedabad are explained in the enclosed extract from the report of our survey party. I should be very grateful if anything could be done to secure for us suitable premises for our temporary studios/transmitter and for the receiving centre. We require two separate buildings, one of 10 - 12 rooms for our studios and transmitter and another of 3 or 4 rooms for the receiving centre. The studio building should be as near the centre of the city as possible, with an open space of at least half an acre in the compound. The receiving centre building should preferably be on the outskirts of the city, away from industrial establishments and close to open fields. Alternating current electric supply should of course be available at or near both the places.

Yours sincerely,

P. Chandra

V. Shankar, Esq., I. C. S.,
Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Minister
for Information and Broadcasting,
c/o Cricket Club of India,
Brabourne Stadium,
Bombay.

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Extract from the report of the preliminary survey carried out by Messrs. Chamanlal, Research Engineer and V. Balasubramanian, Senior Deputy Installation Engineer, AIR for the establishment of a radio station in Ahmedabad.

Temporary Studios.

In spite of our best efforts and those of the local authorities, we regret to report that no suitable building which could be adapted for our temporary studios and the pilot 1 kw. transmitter could be found out in a reasonably central locality. The reasons for this state of affairs appear to be as follows:

1. Most of the houses in Ahmedabad are built with very restricted compounds with the result that many a building which could have been otherwise suitable has to be rejected because it could not have accommodated aerial and earth system for the pilot transmitter.

2. The average house owner in Ahmedabad, being a member of the rich merchant community, is not interested in letting his house at a nominal rental to government.

3. Local authorities have no power of requisitioning houses in Ahmedabad.

However, a few buildings, which would meet our requirements to some extent, are listed below:

1. Building owned by Mr. Amba Lal Sarabhai.

This is a very palatial building situated in the heart of Ahmedabad town and is, at present, housing the Income Tax Department. It appears rather old fashioned, has a fair amount of open space, and may do for our requirements. The Income Tax Department are paying Rs.500/- as rent but the landlord is not satisfied with this amount. It is likely that the Income Tax Department will have to shift from this building and the landlord will be prepared to let it out to AIR for a sum of not less than Rs.1,500/- per month.

2. Building owned by Mr. Mangal Dass. This building is also situated in the heart of the town in the Shadra Kali area and is a very palatial building with several large and small rooms. A number of offices are already located in this building and a portion of it may be sufficient for our requirements. There is, however, no compound for aerial and earth system. The rental for a portion of this building which is vacant, would be in the neighbourhood of Rs.1,500 per month.

3. House No. 397 owned by Mr. Sakar Lal Balabhai, Mill Agent.

This is a double-storeyed building situated on the Gujarat College Road in the Ellis Bridge area, just beyond the railway level crossing. The building has only eight rooms and verandahs on two sides which could be enclosed for additional accommodation. The building was requisitioned by the Government ~~at~~ during the war time and is still ~~now~~ housing one of the FWD offices. There is not enough space for aerial and earth system to be located inside the compound of this building but we may be able to encroach on the adjoining open land for laying a few earth wires. It is understood that this house could be had without much difficulty as it is already in the possession of the government. The monthly rent is Rs.200/-. A rough sketch of this house is attached.

4. On discussing our difficulties with the President of the Ahmedabad Municipality, Mr. Manilal Chaturbhai Shah, we were given to understand that the local municipality would be

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prepared to construct a building to AIR's specifications, with a period of six months, on any suitable site to be chosen by us. The President was confident of doing this as the local municipality had sufficient stocks of bricks, timber and cement, and the only material which AIR would have to arrange for, would be the necessary quantity of steel. Mr. Shah went, even, so far as to suggest that the Municipality would be prepared to construct a building to AIR's specifications and rent it to AIR on long lease.

Remarks. In view of the extremely difficult housing position in Ahmedabad, it appears to us that we may take the President of the local municipality at his word and request him to put up a building for AIR on a rental basis. In ~~XXXX~~ case this course is not considered advisable, then the only course open to us would be to split our studios and the 1 kw. pilot transmitter and house them separately. The transmitter could be located in house No. 397 on Gujarat College Road and the studios and offices could be located in Mangal Dass's house, failing which in Amba Lal Sarabhai's house.



**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ALL INDIA RADIO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**TELEGRAMS COMBROCAST
TELEPHONE 7131**

**BROADCASTING HOUSE
PARLIMENT STREET
NEW DELHI**

D.O. No. DG-56/48

February 5, 1948

My dear Shankar,

May I invite a reference to my letter of the 15th January in which I explained our requirements of studio and transmitter buildings in Ahmedabad? As I am most anxious to push through our 'pilot' scheme, I should be grateful if you could kindly let me know whether during your last visit to Ahmedabad you received any information about suitable premises which might be useful to us.

Yours sincerely,

P. Chandra

V. Shankar, Esq., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister
for Information & Broadcasting,
1 Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi.

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New Delhi,
6th February 1948.

My dear Chaudhuri,

Please refer to your demi-official letter No.DG-56/48 dated the 5th February 1948. As I told you, the Chairman of the Ahmedabad Municipality had promised to look into the matter and let me have his proposals in writing. I am reminding him accordingly and on receipt of his reply will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

(V.SHANKAR)

Private Secretary to the Hon.
Deputy Prime Minister.

P.C.Chaudhuri, Esq., OBE., ICS.,
Director-General,
All India Radio,
Broadcasting House,
New Delhi.

(6)
NEW DELHI,
16th February 1948.

My dear Chaudhari,

With reference to our discussion on the telephone regarding a suitable site for the proposed Radio Station at Ahmedabad, I send herewith the correspondence between me and the Chairman of the Ahmedabad Municipality. If you would let me know your programme of visit to Ahmedabad, I shall inform Mr. Manilal Shah accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

(V. SHANKAR)
Private Secretary.

P.C. Chaudhari Esq., ICS,
Director-General, All India Radio,
New Delhi.

V.



**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ALL INDIA RADIO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

TELEGRAMS CONBROADCAST
TELEPHONE 7191

BROADCASTING HOUSE
PARLIAMENT STREET
NEW DELHI

D.O. No. DG-117/48

February 25, 1948

My dear Shankar,

Thank you for your letter of the 16th February about premises for our broadcasting station in Ahmedabad. I am afraid I had been too busy all these weeks but as I do not wish to postpone my visit further I have decided to go over to Ahmedabad on Sunday, the 29th February, by the morning plane, reaching Ahmedabad at 11.35 a.m. Laliga will come with me so that we can finalise the arrangements from the point of view of engineering requirements also. I hope you will be good enough to drop a line to Mr. Manilal Shah about our programme. We hope to return by the afternoon plane to Delhi or on Monday at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

P. Chatterjee

V. Shankar, Esq., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to the
Hon'ble Minister for I&B,
New Delhi.

Mr. S.S.
(Recd)
17>

TELEGRAM

IMMEDIATE
STATE

MANILAL CHATURBHAI SHAH
PRESIDENT
AHMEDABAD MUNICIPALITY
AHMEDABAD

CHAUDHARI DIRECTOR GENERAL ALL INDIA RADIO ACCOMPANIED
BY BALIGA CHIEF ENGINEER ARRIVING IN AHMEDABAD
ON SUNDAY [REDACTED] TWENTYNINTH BY MORNING PLANE
AT ELEVENTH THIRTY A.M.

SHANKAR

Not to be telegraphed:-

Signature:

Address: V. Shankar Esq., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to Hon.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Dy. Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Dated: 25.2.1948.



**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ALL INDIA RADIO**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

TELEGRAMS CONBROADCAST
TELEPHONE 7121

BROADCASTING HOUSE
PARLIAMENT STREET
NEW DELHI

D.O. No. DG-142/48

March 15, 1948

My dear Shankar,

Following your letter of the 10th February, Baliga and I went down to Ahmedabad on the 29th February. We saw a large number of buildings for temporary studios and also possible sites for our installations. We have selected Mr. Sakar Lal Dalabhai's house on Rajarat College Road for the 'pilot'-station provided a few more rooms can be built on the first floor and some space can be made available for our aerial system in the nearby open land. Mr. Manilal Shah was most helpful throughout and has promised to give us all possible assistance. I enclose for your information a copy of a telegram I have sent him. The house is at present occupied by a small Irrigation Office of the Bombay PWD and if we get a favourable reply to our telegram to Mr. Manilal Shah we shall request the Government of Bombay to let us have the building after moving the Irrigation Office to some other premises. If the house is available by the beginning of April, we shall try our best to open the station sometime in June.

Yours sincerely,

P. C. Shankar, Esq., ICS.,
Private Secretary to the Hon'ble
Minister for Information &
Broadcasting,
1 Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi.

P. C. Shankar

Mr. G.S. 19
Pl. add to file no.
Installation at
New A. S. R. Station
at Ahmedabad
24/4

(10)
Dated 5.3.48.

Inland Telegram

State

Manilal Chaturbhai Shah

Chairman

Ahmedabad Municipality

Ahmedabad

Sakarilal Balabhai's house 397 Gujarat College Road suitable for temporary studios provided four additional rooms upstairs and one adjoining present kitchen downstairs are constructed and provided also we can install aerials in nearby open land stop Area required for aerial system roughly two hundred square feet stop Grateful wire earliest date and terms for completing additional rooms and leasing aerial space

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